

In the Claims:

Cancel Claims 1-7 and 10-17 and replace them with the following:

--18.(New) A carpeted floor mat exhibiting a reduced propensity for rippling after laundering and a reduced propensity for tufted pile delamination therefrom, said floor mat comprising

a non-woven carpet pile substrate, said substrate a) comprising polyester fibers, b) exhibiting a heat shrinkage rate of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%, and c) weighing between 3.5 and 4.5 ounces per square yard; wherein a pile material is tufted through said substrate to form a pile surface on one side of said substrate; and

a vulcanized expanded foam rubber backing sheet, said backing sheet exhibiting a heat shrinkage rate of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%; wherein said backing sheet is integrated to the non-tufted side of the carpet pile substrate; and, optionally, comprising solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least one of the borders of said backing sheet;

wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine.

19.(New) The floor mat of Claim 18 wherein at least one solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strip is present and possesses a heat shrinkage factor of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%.

20.(New) The floor mat of Claim 18 wherein said carpet pile substrate weighs about 4.0 ounces per square yard.

21.(New) The floor mat of Claim 18 wherein silica is present within said backing sheet.

22.(New) The floor mat of Claim 18 wherein said backing sheet possesses a water absorption of below about 10%.

23.(New) A carpeted floor mat exhibiting a reduced propensity for rippling after laundering and a reduced propensity for tufted pile delamination therefrom, said floor mat comprising

a non-woven carpet pile substrate, said substrate a) comprising polyester fibers, b) exhibiting a heat shrinkage rate of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%, and c) weighing between 3.5 and 4.5 ounces per square yard; wherein a pile material is tufted through said substrate to form a pile surface on one side of said substrate; and

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a vulcanized expanded foam rubber backing sheet, said backing sheet possessing a modulus strength of greater than about 1,000 pounds per square inch; wherein said backing sheet is integrated to the non-tufted side of the carpet pile substrate; and, optionally, comprising solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least one of the borders of said backing sheet, wherein said optional reinforcement strips possess a modulus strength greater than about 1,000 pounds per square inch;

wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine.

24.(New) The floor mat of Claim 23 wherein said carpet pile substrate weighs about 4.0 ounces per square yard.

25.(New) The floor mat of Claim 23 wherein silica is present within said backing sheet.

2. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the filing fee of \$ 740.00 to Deposit Account No. 04-500. A duplicate copy of this request is enclosed.

3. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 04-500. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

March 4, 2002

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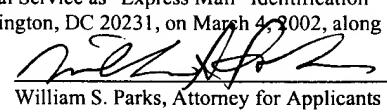
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail" Identification number EL062576075US in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on March 4, 2002, along with the Post Card Receipt.



William S. Parks, Attorney for Applicants